

REMARKS

Claims 10-15 and 26-32 have been previously examined. Claims 33-36 have been added, but no new matter has been added. Claims 10-15 and 26-36 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 11 and all claims depending from claim 11 based on an informality present in claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended to correct the informality and therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 10, 26, 28 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited Parker (U.S. Patent No. 5,076,242) in view of Hartnagel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,908). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 10 is an independent claim and claims 26, 28 and 31 depend from claim 10. The Examiner asserts that Parker discloses most of the features recited in claim 10, but acknowledges that Parker fails to teach a rib connecting the outer pipe and the inner pipe, but asserts that Hartnagel teaches ribs. The Examiner also asserts that the language of claim 10, which recites “the outer pipe, the inner pipe and the ribs of the duplex pipe are formed as one body by at least one of an extruding process and a drawing process”, is not germane to the issue of patentability and does not serve to structurally distinguish the claims.

Applicants have amended claim 10 to clarify the claimed subject matter. For example, the language quoted above has been amended to indicate that the outer pipe, the inner piper and

the ribs of the duplex pipe are unitarily formed as one body, which is a structural feature. Neither reference cited by the examiner discloses a duplex pipe having this feature. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is patentable over the combination of Parker and Hartnagel et al. and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn. Further, claims 26, 28 and 31 depend from claim 10 and, Applicants respectfully submit, are patentable by virtue of their dependency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 26, 28 and 31 be withdrawn as well.

Claims 11-13, 15, 27, 29, 30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker in view of Hartnagel in view of Martin (U.S. Patent No. 4,886,305) and further in view of O'Laughlin (U.S. Patent No. 1,986,010). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner asserts that Parker and Hartnagel disclose several features of claim 11 in a manner similar to that described above with respect to claim 10. For example, the Examiner asserts that Parker discloses an outer pipe 38 and an inner pipe 34 and that Hartnagel supplies the deficiency of Parker with respect to the claimed rib. The Examiner acknowledges that the combination of Parker and Hartnagel fails to teach that a second connecting portion defines a concave portion. However, the Examiner asserts that Martin corrects this deficiency. The Examiner also acknowledges that the combination of Parker and Hartnagel fails to teach a joint where a soldering or brazing ring is disposed in an interior shoulder of the fitting and acts as a stop for an inserted pipe. However, the Examiner cites O'Laughlin as allegedly correcting this deficiency.

Applicants have amended claim 11 to clarify the claimed subject matter. For example, the word unitarily has been added to claim 11 to indicate that the outer pipe, the inner pipe and the ribs are unitarily formed as one body, which is a structural feature. Again, none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose a duplex pipe consisting of an outer pipe, an inner pipe, and ribs unitarily formed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over the combination of Parker, Hartnagel, Martin and O'Laughlin, and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn. Further, claims 12, 13, 15, 27, 29, 30 and 32 depend from claim 11 and, Applicants respectfully submit, are patentable by virtue of their dependency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 27, 29, 30 and 32 be withdrawn as well.

Further new claims 33-36 have been added and recited features not disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant submits these claims are also patentable and respectfully requests that they be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
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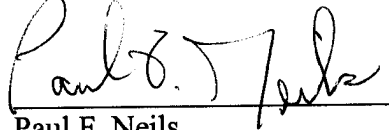
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", written over a horizontal line.

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